

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS FOR ALLOWANCE

Reconsideration of the subject application is requested. It is believed that the claims as now amended patentably distinguish the claimed inventions from the references and should be allowed because of the following reasons.

Swartz et al. US 6,443,785 teaches a forwardly extending upwardly inclined member 230 on a lower portion of a rudder blade for providing "added upward force to the rudder blade when in the stored (non-operative) position" (see col. 5, lines 30-32).

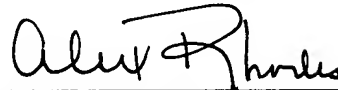
Claims 1-7, 9 and 10, as now amended, and claims 8 and 11 require a rearwardly extending upwardly inclined member on a lower portion of a rudder when the rudder is in a lowered operative position (see applicant's Fig. 6) for generating braking forces when the rudder is in a lowered operative position.

Willis US 5,988,091 discloses an emergency jet boat braking system. Neither Swartz et al. nor Willis disclose the combination of a rudder and braking system. Nor do Willis or Swartz et al. provide any suggestion or motivation for combining the references. Moreover, the braking fin of Swartz et al. would defeat the object of Willis, namely, to add "upward force to the rudder blade when in the stored (non-operative) position", since the braking fin of Swartz et al. would reduce the upward force on the rudder blade.

In view of the above, it is believed that the amended claims are neither anticipated nor obvious over the references and that this application should be passed for allowance.

A terminal disclaimer is enclosed together with a check for the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Rhodes", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Alex Rhodes, Reg. No. 26,797
Attorney for Applicant
50168 Pontiac Trail, Unit No. 9
Wixom, MI 48393-2019
Tel: (248) 669-0678
Fax: (248) 669-3694

Dated: June 9, 2004